

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph under the heading RELATED PATENT APPLICATIONS with the following rewritten paragraph:

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A1 -- Reference is made to copending United States Patent Application Serial No. 10/021,532, filed on December 12, 2001, and entitled "Application and Utilization of a Water-Soluble Polymer on a Surface," the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference. --

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Please replace paragraph [010] on page 4 with the following rewritten paragraph:

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A2 -- In at least one implementation of the present invention, the hydrophilic material used to obtain the multi-character material and/or to provide the optional covering layer is a water-soluble polymer. For example, when a surface coating of an electrosurgical tip includes a water-soluble polymer, water may be attracted to the tip that assists in cooling and/or lubricating the tip. A water-soluble polymer coating layer may further create a low shear, sacrificial layer on the tip that protects and enhances the performance of the tip. Alternatively or additionally, the water-soluble polymer may supply a radical scavenger or inhibitor to reduce damage to the tip, deposit factors or active agents, such as healing factors, from the tip onto one or more contact surfaces of the patient's body, and/or provide other desired properties, attributes and/or characteristics to the tip. --

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